



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

DA 00-27

Released: January 10, 2000

ENFORCEMENT TEAM CREATED TO GUARD AGAINST “BACKSLIDING” ON COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

In the wake of the Commission's recent grant of Bell Atlantic's application to offer long distance service in New York, the Commission staff has established a team composed of members of the Enforcement Bureau to ensure that, after the grant of their applications, Regional Bell Operating Companies continue to comply with the local-market-opening conditions they are required to satisfy in order to gain entry to the long distance markets in their respective states. The primary functions of the enforcement team are (1) to review complaints and other information from interested persons regarding post-grant “backsliding” by BOCs whose applications are approved, (2) to undertake or recommend swift and effective enforcement action where appropriate, and (3) to act as the point of contact within the Commission for persons wishing to provide information regarding possible “backsliding” by BOCs.

On December 21, 1999, the Commission approved Bell Atlantic's application to offer long distance service in New York. This was the Commission's first approval of an application by a Bell Operating Company to offer long distance service in its local market under the procedures set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In order to gain approval, BOCs are required to satisfy several statutory requirements designed to test whether they have fully opened their local telephone markets to competition. While finding in this case that Bell Atlantic had satisfied these requirements, the Commission made clear that, in accordance with its statutory authority, it will take swift enforcement action should Bell Atlantic at any time cease to meet any of the conditions required for approval of its application. The Commission stated that its enforcement options include, among other things, imposition of monetary penalties and entry of a “stand-still” order suspending Bell Atlantic's ability to market and promote its long distance service.

The enforcement team is headed by Bradford Berry, Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Bureau. Other key team members include: Richard Welch, Associate Chief of the Enforcement Bureau; Suzanne Tetreault, Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Bureau; Glenn Reynolds, Chief of the Market Disputes Resolution Division of the Enforcement Bureau; Charles Kelley, Chief of the Investigations and Hearings Division of the Enforcement Bureau; Alexander Starr, Deputy Chief of the Market Disputes Resolution Division of the Enforcement Bureau; Frank Lamancusa, Deputy Chief of the Market Disputes Resolution Division of the Enforcement Bureau; and Mark Seifert, Assistant Chief of the Market Disputes Resolution Division of the Enforcement Bureau. The Common Carrier Bureau has designated Carol Matthey, Chief of the Bureau's Policy and Program Planning Division, and Michelle Carey, Deputy Chief of the Policy and Program

Planning Division, as liaisons to the enforcement team. The team will report to the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau.

Persons considering the filing of a formal “backsliding” complaint, as well as persons wishing to bring information to the Commission’s attention regarding possible “backsliding,” may contact Mark Seifert. Mr. Seifert may be reached at (202) 418-7330 or by e-mail at mseifert@fcc.gov.

By the Chief, Enforcement Bureau.

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